IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (new): An oral formulation comprising:

(a) chlorhexidine or a salt thereof;

(b) a zinc salt;

(c) masking and/or flavouring agents, including
(i) a first sweetening agent having an immediate but transient effect and (ii) a second sweetening agent having a delayed but prolonged effect, said second sweetening agent being neohesperidine chalcone; and

(d) other conventional components of oral formulations.

Claim 26 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, wherein said first sweetening agent is saccharin or a salt thereof.

Claim 27 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 26, comprising up to 0.05% (w/w) of saccharin sodium.

Claim 28 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, comprising up to 0.1% (w/w) of neohesperidine dihydrochalcone.

Claim 29 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, comprising 0.1 to 1.0% (w/w) of chlorhexidine or a salt thereof.

Claim 30 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, comprising 0.1 to 1.0% (w/w) of the zinc salt.

Claim 31 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, comprising one or more gluconate salt(s).

Claim 32 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, wherein the zinc salt is zinc gluconate.

Claim 33 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, wherein the chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine digluconate.

Claim 34 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 33, comprising about 0.6% (w/w) of chlorhexidine digluconate.

Claim 35 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, wherein the chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine diacetate.

Claim 36 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, further comprising additional masking and/or flavouring agents selected from flavouring oils and methyl salicylate.

Claim 37 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, comprising 0.1 to 5% (w/w) of said masking and/or flavouring agents.

Claim 38 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, comprising components (d) selected from the group consisting of: fluoride materials, dentally acceptable abrasive materials, surfactants, thickeners, gelling agents, humectants, alcohol and water.

Claim 39 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 38, wherein said surfactants are selected from non-ionic and zwitterionic surfactants.

Claim 40 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 39, wherein said non-ionic surfactants are macrogol ethers.

Claim 41 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 39, wherein said zwitterionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of betaines and alkylamido alkyl amines.

Claim 42 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 39, wherein said surfactants comprise a combination of non-ionic and zwitterionic surfactants.

Claim 43 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 42, wherein said surfactants comprise a combination of a macrogol ether and cocamidopropyl betaine.

Claim 44 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 42, wherein the ratio of the non-ionic surfactant(s) to the zwitterionic surfactant(s) is about 2.4:1 by weight.

Claim 45 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 39, comprising 0.1 to 10% (w/w) of said surfactants.

Claim 46 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 45, comprising about 1.7% (w/w) of said surfactants.

Claim 47 (new): An oral formulation according to claim 25, being selected from the group consisting of toothpastes, dentifrices, mouthwashes, chewing gum and lozenges.